

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : R. T. HARBO <sup>ME</sup>

FROM : D. J. Parsons

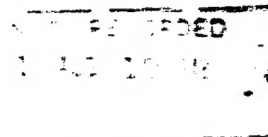
SUBJECT: Encl. was.,  
William Willard Langston  
William Langston  
IRM

DATE: 2-5-48

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

There is attached the file which has been maintained in the Laboratory in connection with the above captioned matter. It is desired that this file be maintained as an enclosure behind the main file in the Records Section.

Attachment:



71A-6130R

47-363.28-14

Enclosure Retained

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: August 15, 1966

FROM : SAC, Little Rock

SUBJECT: WILLIAM WILLARD LAMSTON  
IMPERSONATION  
Bureau File 47-35328

Reference is made to your letter of August 6, 1966 concerning a wanted notice to be placed in the Identification files against the record of WILLIAM WILLARD LAMSTON.

It appears that the Identification Division has located a record of the individual, WILLIAM WILLARD LAMSTON, FBI NUMBER 47-1980, against which record it is desired that the wanted notice be placed. Since this case has been closed, no further investigation is contemplated, but it is desired that the wanted notice be placed against this individual's fingerprint record in order that the Little Rock Office will be notified in the event fingerprints which are identical are received in the future.

77  
78  
K  
SAC, Little Rock

August 6, 1946

Director, FBI

WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON

IMPERSONATION

Your file #47-879

Further reference is made to your form letter dated April 18, 1946, requesting that a wanted notice be placed in the files of the Identification Division against the record of one William Willard Langston for your office and to the Bureau transcript forwarded to you on July 11, 1946.

You are advised that a fingerprint search was made through the files of the United States Marine Corps which resulted in locating a record for one William Willard Langston, Marine Corps serial #677313, who may be identical with the subject of your investigation. It was ascertained from this agency, however, that the service records for this individual have been transferred to the inactive files in Philadelphia. It is suggested, therefore, that you request the Philadelphia Field Office to contact the United States Marine Corps Headquarters, Identification Division, Depot of Supplies, 1100 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for a review of this particular service record. If the Philadelphia Field Office is unable to obtain this record and upon request from your office again, further effort will be made to obtain the record here in Washington.

100  
15261  
RECEIVED  
AUG 13 1946  
FBI - LITTLE ROCK



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States Department of Justice**

445 Federal Building  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
April 18, 1946

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: **WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON**  
**IMPERSONATION**

Dear Sir:

It is requested that a wanted notice be placed in the files of the Identification Division against the record of the following individual:

Name **WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON**  
Aliases **WILLARD LANGSTON**

FBI number  
F. P. C.

(or) Local Registry number

The above individual is wanted for Impersonation Statute violation

In the event of apprehension of this individual notify Little Rock Field Division.

The above individual may be described as follows (not necessary if FBI number is furnished):

1-Age: 28  
2-Date of birth:  
3-Place of birth: Eureka, Ark.  
4-Height: 5'11"  
5-Weight: 185-190  
6-Build:  
7-Eyes: Brown  
8-Hair: Brown  
9-Complexion: Dark  
10-Color: Dark  
11-Sex: Male  
12-Nationality: American

13-Occupation: U. S. Marine  
14-Marital status: Married  
15-Residence: Eureka, Ark.

Scars, marks, and peculiarities  
5" too" scar on left leg below knee  
Small scar in one eyebrow  
Criminal Record Yes ☐ No ☒

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
APR 20 1946  
FBI - LITTLE ROCK

July 8, 1946

RECORDED

NY-18 Mr. Sidney Schreiber  
Counselor At Law  
11 Park Place  
New York 7, New York

Dear Mr. Schreiber:

Your letter of June 24, 1946, has been received. In answer to your question I wish to advise that the FBI conducted a preliminary investigation in the matter you mentioned, upon completion of which the facts were presented to the United States Attorney. He was of the opinion that the facts in the case did not constitute a violation of any Federal statute. The person who represented himself to be William Willard Langston was an imposter and the brother of the deceased Langston was definitely eliminated from suspicion.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

NOTE: Schreiber was a member of the National Lawyers Guild. In the Internal Security - C investigation of Louis Bass of New York City, Schreiber was reported as being on the Veterans Commission of the New York State Communist Political Association as of September 18, 1945. (94-35314-1)

Two letters on regular paper have been addressed to Schreiber this year about Identification Orders. (94-35314)

An unknown person in early 1946 reported himself to be William Willard Langston formerly of Newark, Arkansas, and Bay Center, Michigan, killed in the Battle of Iwo Jima on March 7, 1945. This unknown person appeared at Newport, Arkansas, over the weekend of January 19 and 20, 1946, describing military experiences which Langston never endured. He obtained lodging and small sums of money and convinced people that he was actually Langston. The FBI conducted an impersonation investigation. It was also noted when the U. S. Attorney advised that no violation of Federal statute existed.

JUL 6 1946

SIDNEY SCHREIBER  
COUNSELLOR AT LAW

RECTOR 2-5564

11 PARK PLACE  
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.  
June 24, 1946.

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON

Dear Mr. Hoover :

Some months ago, the newspapers reported the strange case of Marine PFC WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON, of Newport, Arkansas, who, although reported by the Marine Corps killed in action on Iwo Jima, suddenly turned up in his home town, and after creating a sensation there, just as suddenly disappeared. After his disappearance, there was much speculation as to whether he had really been WILLIAM WILLARD or a younger brother named MARION. The Federal Bureau of Investigation at Little Rock, Arkansas, investigated the case but nothing further appeared in the newspapers.

A client of mine, READER'S SCOPE MAGAZINE, interested in the case, wishes to offer a reward for information leading to the return to the world of the legally living, if he is alive and if it is really he, of WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON. Before making the offer, however, we would like to know whether your Bureau has had any further word in the case.

I would greatly appreciate your advice in the matter.

Respectfully yours,

*Sidney Schreiber*

SS:ld

RECORDED

19 JUL 11 1946

May 6, 1946

General Alexander A. Vandegrift, Commandant  
United States Marine Corps  
Army Building, Arlington Annex  
Washington, D. C.

RE: WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON

Dear General Vandegrift:

I am enclosing herewith a report made by our  
Little Rock Division in the above captioned case in which  
your office has expressed an interest.

It is noted that the United States Attorney  
at Little Rock has advised that since the ~~information was~~  
~~provided~~ ~~to~~ the person representing himself as Dr.  
William Willard Langston did so out of friendship for the  
individual and not on reliance of his position as a member  
of the Marine Corps, there is no Federal violation over  
which this Bureau has jurisdiction.

I thought, however, that the results of this  
investigation would be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure

MAY

ELB:FE

32 AM '46

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1946  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

30

Handwritten signatures and initials: "E", "L", "R", "HR"

L R 47-877

**UNDEVELOPED LEADS**

**THE BUTTE FIELD DIVISION**

**AT LEWISTON, IDAHO:**

Will remove the Stop Notice placed with LDB at Lewiston Idaho inasmuch as suspect MARION DAVIS LANGSTON appears to have been eliminated.

**THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION**

A copy of this report is being furnished for the information of the Washington Field Division and that office may consider this case closed inasmuch as prosecution has been declined by the United States Attorney's Office at Little Rock.

L R 47-677

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

Confidential Informant T-1 is Postmaster ROY CRAIG, Newark, Ark.



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

FILE NO. **47-1367**

REPORT MADE AT <b>SEATTLE, WASHINGTON</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/13/46</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/29, 30, 31; 2/12, 21/46</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>RUSH GEORGE GLICK</b>
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TITLE

**UNKNOWN SUBJECT, with alias William Willard Langston**

CHARACTER OF CASE

**IMPERSONATION**

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS**

No record Kaiser Shipyards, Vancouver, Wash. regarding Subject or Suspect **MARION**. Records Simpson Logging Co., Shelton, Wash. reviewed. Suspect **MARION**'s address obtained from Rockport, Wash. and Mr. and Mrs. **MARVEY WHEATON**, 7124 Holly Park Drive, Seattle, Wash., interviewed. Background information regarding **MARION** obtained. Handwriting specimens and picture forwarded. Selective Service Board determined to be LB #1, Lawiston, Idaho. **MARION LANGSTON** located and interviewed 2/21/46. Satisfactorily proved presence in this area during pertinent period.

- RUC -

**Reference:** Teletype from Little Rock Field Division dated January 29, 1946.

**Details:**

The records of the Kaiser Company Shipyards at Vancouver, Washington, were searched by Special Agent **CHARLES A. PHIPPS** in regard to a record of the Subject or **MARION LANGSTON**, suspect. All efforts to locate any record met with negative results.

The records of the Simpson Logging Company, Shelton, Washington, were checked by Special Agent **MARIE W. FLAMMIGN** and it was revealed that one **MARION LANGSTON** was employed by that organization from May 1st to June 26, 1945, as a rigger and pit man. This record indicated he was born January 4, 1927, at **Gateville, Arkansas**, is 6 feet tall, weighs 170 pounds, Social Security Number **513-22-6039**. His father, **W. C. LANGSTON**, Gateville, Arkansas, was listed as the person to notify in the event of accident or illness.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED  <i>L. J. Egan</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	COPIES OF THIS REPORT 1- Bureau 2- Little Rock 2- Seattle COPY IN FILE	RECORDED 33 EX-21 MAR 19 1946
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Mr. ~~SPOT~~ PRESENTIN, Rockport Post Office, Rockport, Washington, was contacted by Special Agent DEAN C. HOLSTON and he advised that the Suspect MARION LANGSTON had worked at the Corving Logging Company about three months ago. He stated that his forwarding address was listed as 7124 Holly Park Drive, Seattle 8, Washington.

Mr. RALPH YOUNG, Bookkeeper for Glen Corving Logging Company, was contacted by Special Agent DEAN C. HOLSTON, at which time Mr. YOUNG advised that he had last seen MARION LANGSTON in Bellingham, Washington, about December 10, 1945, when he had come to their office in an effort to locate another individual. It had been reported to Mr. YOUNG that LANGSTON had had a band on the index finger of his right hand and it had been placed in a cast. MARION LANGSTON was not remembered to have a limp or any other physical defects. The records of the Corving Logging Company failed to reflect any supplementary information.

In an effort to ascertain information in regard to the hospitalization of the Suspect, Special Agent HOLSTON contacted Dr. McFADEEN of Concrete, Washington, and Dr. PEARSON of Sedro-Boellay, Washington, as well as the hospital at Ross Dam, Washington, with negative results.

Mr. and Mrs. MILKY ~~WHISKYER~~ WHISKYER, 7124 Holly Park Drive, Seattle 8, Washington, were contacted by the writer in regard to MARION LANGSTON, who had listed this address as his forwarding address. Mrs. WHISKYER stated that MARION had boarded at their home from October 13, 1945, to January 6, 1946, at which time he left their home owing back rent. She stated that she still retains all of his baggage and that he had departed on the night of January 6th with nothing in his possession aside from the clothes he was wearing. Mrs. WHISKYER further stated that she had not heard any word from or of him since the night he left their home and could not give any clue as to his present whereabouts. Mrs. WHISKYER stated that MARION previously worked for the Pacific Construction Company at 1800 - 21st Avenue South, and the R and I Construction Company of Seattle, Washington. She stated that MARION was inclined to be a liar and was a needy sort of person. He had stated to them that he had had a brother in the service who had been killed, but did not wish to talk further about him. MARION had further claimed that he had left home at an early age and had been in the Army but had recently been discharged. On the contrary, however, documents and letters were found in his room which indicated that he was registered with Local Board #1, Lewiston, Idaho, and that he was classified as 4-F.

Mrs. WHISKYER did not know of any injuries which MARION LANGSTON might have received, other than his injured finger which had resulted from an industrial accident at Ross Dam. She did not know where he had been hospitalized.

Mrs. WHISKYER made available a picture and handwriting specimens of the Suspect, which were forwarded to the Little Rock Field Division under separate cover on February 14, 1946.



Mr. WENDEYER, in addition to the information given by his wife, stated that MARION was considered by him to be a braggart and a liar and, in his opinion, he had probably received only an 8th grade education. He further described him as a very unsteady worker inasmuch as he frequently quit a job the same day he started on it. Mr. WENDEYER stated that MARION was a member of the Streetpavers' Union and he might possibly be located through that organization. Mr. and Mrs. WENDEYER described MARION LANGSTON as follows:

Age	19 to 20 years
Weight	175 pounds
Hair	Dark brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Build	Rusky, well built, square shoulders
Dress	Slacks and sport outfits
Peculiarities	Kidney trouble; allegedly has a silver plate in his back; mangled right index finger; lump on left knee just below knee cap, resulting in a limp; quite a few moles on back and body.

Mr. J. B. WILSON, of the Streetpavers', Sewer, Water Main, Tunnel Workers' Union, was contacted in regard to the Suspect MARION LANGSTON; however, WILSON reported that LANGSTON has not paid dues with their organization since August, 1945, and is not presently in good standing. WILSON had no forwarding address which might aid in LANGSTON's location.

A teletype lead was submitted to the Butte Field Division on January 31, 1946, in regard to obtaining information from Local Board #1 at Lewiston, Idaho, in regard to MARION LANGSTON's draft status.

A teletype summary in regard to the above information was forwarded to the Little Rock Field Division under date of February 21, 1946.

As a result of a stop previously placed with her, Mrs. BARNEY WENDEYER notified the writer on February 21, 1946, that MARION LANGSTON had, a few minutes earlier, telephonically contacted her and was, at that time, enroute to her home. She added that she would hold LANGSTON there until Agents of the Seattle Field Division could arrive and interview him. Accordingly, MARION LANGSTON was interviewed by the writer and Special Agent HENNING CLEMENTS. When queried in regard to his whereabouts during the pertinent period, MARION stated that on January 6th, he had moved from the WENDEYER home to 2219 1/2 First Avenue, Seattle, Washington, which is the Robinslee Hotel, where he was living with one HERBERT CAED. He lived there for approximately one week while he was employed at

Stimpson's Mill in Seattle. On the 15th of January, he left the Robinlee Hotel and resided in the Oxford Hotel until January 19th. On that date, he registered in the Globe Hotel, where he remained until January 23rd. Since the 23rd of January, he has been living at the Colonial Hotel in Seattle.

In verifying Suspect **MARION LANGSTON**'s statements, Mr. **HALFOLD STRAND**, Payroll Department, Stimpson Mill, 2116 Vernon Place, Seattle, Washington, was contacted and he stated that **LANGSTON** had been employed by their organization from the 11th to the 17th of January, 1946.

Mr. **S. O. HEDGECOCK**, Room Clerk of the Globe Hotel, Seattle, Washington, stated that their records revealed that **LANGSTON** was registered in Room 305 for the period January 19th to 23rd.

Inasmuch as these verifications of employment and residence covered the entire pertinent period during which the Subject's activities occurred in Newark, Arkansas, no further interrogation or investigation was conducted in this regard.

The following is a physical description which was acquired through interrogation and observation of Suspect **MARION LANGSTON**:

Name	<b>MARION DAVID LANGSTON</b>
Born	January 4, 1927, at Sulphur Rock, Arkansas
Height	5'11"
Weight	175 pounds
Hair	Dark brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Ruddy
Build	Stocky
Scars and marks	Scar over left eye; large bump on left knee, causing a slight limp sometimes; scar on right index finger; circular scar on tip, right index finger
Draft classification	4-F with Local Board #1, Loviston, Idaho
Social Security number	518-22-6039
Relatives	Mother: <b>MARION HENDRICKS</b> , 120 North Ellis, Jonesboro, Arkansas Father: <b>WILLIAM CLAY LANGSTON</b> , Newark, Arkansas.

SE 47-1387

When queried in regard to whom he thought it might have been who had impersonated his brother in Hewitt, Arkansas, MARION LANGSTON stated he was at a loss to explain this impersonation. He stated he last saw his brother in about 1938 when he had visited him at his home in Buchanan, Michigan. He further stated he had not been in Arkansas since April, 1941, when his father made him lie about his age (he was 14 years old at the time) and put him in the C.C.C. LANGSTON was sent to Camp #2703 at Pecos, Idaho, arriving there on April 8, 1941. He stated he has worked on the west coast ever since that time.

LANGSTON, however, did state that he fully intended to return home for the Christmas holidays; however, he did not have the necessary funds to do so and, therefore, had had to remain in this area during that time.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

cc: Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Boyle

47-35328

February 19, 1946

General Alexander A. Vandegrift, Commandant  
United States Marine Corps  
Navy Building, Arlington Annex  
Washington, D. C.

RE: WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON

Dear General Vandegrift:

I have been advised by representatives of the Marine Corps of your interest in the case of William Willard Langston. Langston was reported to have been killed in action in the battle of Iwo Jima, March 7, 1945, while serving as a member of the Marine Corps. He was formerly from Newark, Arkansas. On the week-end of January 19 and 20, there appeared in Newport, Arkansas, an individual, who reported himself to be the William Willard Langston that had been reported killed. Persons in Newport with whom this individual talked have stated that this individual was acquainted with several things which would indicate that he might in fact be William Langston. William Langston's mother received a letter posted from Conway, Arkansas, dated January 23, 1946, signed by William Langston and stating to his mother that everything was all right and that he was going to a hospital and, further, that he would soon be discharged. A comparison of the handwriting of this letter with the previous known handwriting of William Langston reflected that they were not written by the same individual. This cannot be taken as conclusive, however, since it is not known whether the alleged imposter actually wrote the letter received by William Langston's mother.

Investigation by this Bureau is continuing in view of the fact that in the event the individual in question is an imposter, there is a violation of the Impersonation Statute.

I shall be happy to furnish you with additional details in this matter as soon as they are received.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

RECEIVED  
FEB 24 1946  
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RECEIVED-DIRECTOR  
FEB 21 10 17 AM '46

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

47-35328

RJW:ba

TO : Mr. E. H. Ladd

DATE: February 13, 1946

FROM : Mr. E. H. Winterrowd

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT with aliases;  
William Willard Langston, William Langston

On the morning of February 13, 1946, Sergeant James Phillips, Assistant Editor of the United States Marine Corps publication the "Leatherneck", 1121 - 14th Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., telephone District 5213, called at the Interview Room.

He referred to the case involving Private First Class William Willard Langston, who according to the official records of the United States Marine Corps was killed and was officially buried on Iwo Jima. On the week-end of January 19-20, 1946, there appeared in Langston's home town, Newport, Arkansas, an individual who purported to be William Willard Langston. According to Sergeant Phillips, the person purported to be the deceased was most familiar with certain aspects of the deceased's past life, such as nicknames of friends, acquaintances and gatherings and meetings which were attended by the deceased. The subject purported to be Langston, since has disappeared. The deceased's widow has since remarried and this was known by the person who purported to be the deceased.

Sergeant Phillips stated that he, as well as the United States Marine Corps itself, had been going to great lengths to determine whether the person showing up at Newport, Arkansas was an imposter or whether there actually was a case of mistaken identity in connection with the death and burial of the deceased at Iwo Jima. Sergeant Phillips pointed out that there had been considerable local publicity in connection with this, and that the "Leatherneck" desired to clarify the matter as soon as possible, inasmuch as the United States Marine Corps does not desire to have the public lose its confidence in the way it handles its deceased members. He pointed out that the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps has a stop placed on the file of the deceased, in order that he can be advised at all times. He further indicated that there was considerable interest in the matter as exhibited by an Arkansas Senator and Congressman.

Sergeant Phillips stated that he called at the Bureau to determine what the status of the case was, and whether any identification had been made by a laboratory examination in connection with material submitted to the Little Rock Office. He stated that SAC Morley had advised that he would be glad to cooperate with the United States Marine Corps in this matter.

It is to be noted that there is a pending impersonation case in this regard, file #47-35328.

Sergeant Phillips inquired of the writer if he could advise what steps had been taken and what accomplishments had been attained in this case.

RECORDED

47-35328-8  
FEB 14 1946  
U.S. MARINE CORPS

The writer after checking Sergeant Phillips' identification as <sup>accredited</sup> member of the United States Marine Corps and as a member of the staff of the "Leatherneck", suggested that Sergeant Phillips return on the morning of February 14, 1946, and that this matter in the meantime would be checked into.

ACTION: It is noted from a review of this case, that results in this matter have so far been negative, although it has been ascertained that certain letters believed to have been written by the imposter were not in the identical handwriting of the deceased. Accordingly, unless advised to the contrary, Sergeant Phillips will be informed that this case is still pending and that so far no positive developments have occurred. He will also be advised that in the event any pertinent information is received which is of interest to the United States Marine Corps, it will be made available to appropriate officials and that any further inquiry on the part of Sergeant Phillips should be made with the Commanding General's Office.

It is recommended that this memorandum be forwarded to Supervisor Boyle of the Investigative Division for appropriate consideration and such action as deemed desirable.



cc-Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Boyle

47-35328

SAC, Little Rock

February 20, 1946

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

UNKNOWN SUBJECT with aliases  
William Willard Langston, William Langston  
INTERCOMMITTEE

This is to advise that the Bureau has been contacted by representatives of the Marine Corps, who have expressed an interest in this case in view of the possibility that the Marine Corps made an error in declaring William Langston as having been killed and buried at Iwo Jima. Although the laboratory report was negative with regard to the comparison of the handwriting of William Langston with the alleged handwriting of the individual who has assumed his identity, this cannot be conclusive since it is possible that the alleged imposter did not actually write the questioned specimen.

In view of interest in this case on the part of the Marine Corps, you are requested to give this matter expeditious attention and submit reports without delay.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
FEB 23 1946

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EX-46

28

ENS

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

**DETROIT** FILE NO. **47-2432**

<b>REPORT MADE AT</b> <b>DETROIT, MICHIGAN</b>	<b>DATE WHEN MADE</b> <b>2/21/46</b>	<b>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</b> <b>1/31; 2/6, 8, 11/46</b>	<b>REPORT MADE BY</b> <b>LEW E. COLE</b>
<b>TITLE</b> <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECT; WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON</b>			<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b> <b>IMPERSONATION</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** LINDA OSSIGMAC states to her knowledge no inquiries were made concerning her marriage to OSSIGMAC. She is the only member of LANGSTON'S family who knew of her marriage is ELSIE SMITH, LANGSTON'S sister. ELSIE SMITH denies advising anyone of the marriage. Both state they have had no contact with MARION LANGSTON. No inquiries concerning marriage made at County Clerk's Office at St. Joseph, Michigan. Signature of WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON is only handwriting available to Mrs. COLEMAN.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:** Teletype from the Little Rock Field Division to the Seattle and Detroit Field Divisions dated January 29, 1946.

**DETAILS:** Mrs. LINDA OSSIGMAC, 1020 Market Street, St. Joseph, Michigan, advised that she was married to JOSEPH OSSIGMAC on January 5, 1946, and that no one to her knowledge of this marriage except some of her very close friends, one of whom, she stated, is acquainted with members of LANGSTON'S family. She also advised she had not informed her former husband's parents nor her own parents of the marriage and that the only member of the LANGSTON family who to her knowledge knew of her marriage to OSSIGMAC is Mrs. ELSIE SMITH of Harrison Center, Michigan.

Mrs. SMITH learned of the marriage through ELSIE ANDERSON who is LINDA OSSIGMAC'S sister. Mrs. ANDERSON advised that she had seen ELSIE SMITH about eight to ten days prior to the publicity concerning this case and had told Mrs. SMITH that she had been married to OSSIGMAC but did not tell her when.

<b>APPROVED</b> <i>[Signature]</i>	<b>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</b>
	<b>47-35328-6</b>
<b>MAILED &amp; INDEXED</b>	



(De 47-2132)

Mrs. OSSIGNAC advised that she has not seen MARION LANGSTON since he was about fourteen years of age and has had no contact of any kind with him since that time. She advised she knew of no one who would wish to cause her any trouble in her marriage to OSSIGNAC. Mrs. OSSIGNAC advised that she had previously been interviewed by Agents from the Little Rock Office at Newark, Arkansas, on January 28, 1946.

Mrs. OSSIGNAC further stated that to her knowledge no inquiries concerning her marriage were made by any one prior to the publicity which was given this matter.

ELsie SMITH, Route #1, Berrien Center, Michigan, stated that she had first learned of LINDA OSSIGNAC'S marriage about three days prior to the publicity and that she had advised no one of the marriage and she had not written any of the members of her family concerning it. She advised she has not seen her brother MARION since 1939 and that he has never at any time written to her. She stated that to her knowledge MARION has never been in the State of Michigan.

Efforts to obtain handwriting specimens of WILLIAM WILLARD and MARION LANGSTON from Mrs. OSSIGNAC and Mrs. SMITH were made but the only handwriting available was a signature of WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON appearing on an application for life insurance which was obtained from Mrs. OSSIGNAC and which is being furnished the Little Rock Office with copies of this report. In this connection Mrs. OSSIGNAC advised that the mother of WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON and MARION LANGSTON at Newark, Arkansas, will undoubtedly have in her possession letters from each of these men.

The records of the Berrien County Clerk at St. Joseph, Michigan, reflect that the application for a marriage license was made by JOE OSSIGNAC and LINDA LANGSTON on January 1, 1946, and that they were married on January 3, 1946, at the Lutheran Church in St. Joseph. JOE PETERS, County Clerk, and the other employees of the County Clerk's Office advised that no inquiry regarding this marriage had been made of them prior to the publicity of this case and that no one previously had asked to see the record of this marriage.

ENCLOSURE

TO THE LITTLE ROCK FIELD DIVISION: Application containing signature of WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON.

- RETURNED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
JANUARY 30, 1946

CC-107

TO: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

SAC  
LITTLE ROCK

Transmit the following message to:

RETEL WASHINGTON SUBJECT, SA, WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON, IMPERSONATION. SUBJECT  
MARION D. LANGSTON POSSIBLE IDENTICAL MARION DAVIS LANGSTON, FINGERPRINTED BY  
HEADQUARTERS, C. C. C. ARKANSAS DISTRICT, LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS, DATE NOT GIVEN  
FINGERPRINTS RECEIVED APRIL SIXTEENTH FORTY ONE. HAVE NEAREST RELATIVE AS  
WILLIAM C. LANGSTON, FATHER, KENNESAW ARKANSAS. ALSO FINGERPRINTED AS APPLICANT  
FOR EMPLOYMENT SHIPPER, KAISER COMPANY, VANCOUVER WASHINGTON JANUARY THIRTEENTH  
FORTY THREE. LAST FINGERPRINTED JANUARY TENTH FORTY FIVE AS APPLICANT FOR  
SHIPPER, KAISER COMPANY, PORTLAND YARD, PORTLAND OREGON, GAVE ADDRESS AS ONE  
FIFTEEN THIRTEENTH STREET, LANGSTON ISLAND, BIRTHPLACE AND DATE AS PATERVILLE  
OR BATESVILLE ARKANSAS, JANUARY FOURTH NINETEEN TWENTY THREE, TWENTY FOUR AND  
TWENTY SEVEN. HAS NO CRIMINAL RECORD IDENTIFICATION DIVISION FILES. ASSIGNED  
FBI NUMBER FOUR FIVE TWO ONE NINE NINE EIGHT.

HOOPER

TELETYPE UNIT

END

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

Relay Teletype

10-27-46

huk

FBI - LITTLE ROCK

JANUARY 30, 1946

11-43 AM CST

DIRECTION

SAC WASHINGTON FIELD

SAC BUTTE ..... U R G E N T

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, WA - WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON, IMPERSONATION. SUBJ. REPRESENTED HIMSELF AS WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON, MARINE SERIAL NUMBER 3980372 BELIEVED TO BE THREE NINE THREE NINE TWO, FORMERLY OF NEWARK, ARKANSAS, AND DENIER SPRINGS, MICHIGAN. KILLED IN THE BATTLE OF IOW JIMA ON MARCH SEVEN, FORTYFIVE. WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON'S WIDOW NOW REMARRIED TO JOSEPH OSSIGNAC AND LIVING AT TEN TWENTY MARKET ST., ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN. NAVY DEPARTMENT RECORDS REVEAL WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON DEAD, AND DEATH BENEFITS PAID TO MRS. JOSEPH OSSIGNAC. SUBJECT APPEARED IN NEWPORT, ARKANSAS, OVER WEEK END OF JANUARY NINETEEN AND TWENTY LAST STATING THAT HE WAS GOING TO SEE HIS PARENTS AT NEWARK AND CONFERRED WITH SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE ACQUAINTED WITH THE LANGSTON FAMILY. DETAILS OF FAMILY LIFE FURNISHED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD FORMERLY KNOWN WILLARD LANGSTON DEAD. LANGSTON FAMILY AND LANGSTON WIFE AND SON, [REDACTED] ARE

b6  
b7C

PAGE 2

PORTED BY MARINE CORPS OF WHICH LANGSTON WAS A MEMBER. SUBJECT FURNISHED INFORMATION CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN BATTLES AND LIFE IN PRISON WHICH IS INCONSISTENT WITH THAT OF LANGSTON. SUBJECT DESCRIBED AS - WHITE, AGE TWENTYFIVE OR THIRTY, FIVE FEET ELEVEN AND ONE HALF INCHES, ONE SEVENTY LBS., DARK BROWN EYES, MEDIUM DARK SMOOTH COMPLEXION, TEETH GOOD, POSTURE ERECT, SQUARE SHOULDERS, MEDIUM BROWN HAIR WITH GREYING EDGES. SUBJECT CLAIMS HANDS ARE BURNED FROM TORTURE FROM JAP ~~PRISON~~ PRISON AND STATED HE HAD A METAL PLATE IN HIS HEAD. SUBJECT WALKS WITH A LIMP AND STATES HIS LEFT LEG IS OFF THREE INCHES ABOVE HIS ANKLE. HOLE AND SCAR ON RIGHT LEG FIVE INCHES ABOVE ANKLE. GENERAL PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE INJURIES FITS THAT OF WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON. AFTER STIRRING UP NATIONWIDE PUBLICITY, SUBJECT WAS DEPARTED FROM NEWPORT AND PRESENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN. SUSPECT IS MARION D. LANGSTON, WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON'S ONLY BROTHER, WHO HAS BEEN LIVING IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

BUREAU -- REQUESTED TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE ANY CRIMINAL RECORD OF MARION D. LANGSTON.

BUTTE -- REQUESTED TO CONTACT ~~ONE~~ ONE, LEVISTON, IDAHO, TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING MARION D. LANGSTON AND ANY IN-



PAGE 3

DICATION OF HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

WASHINGTON FIELD -- REQUESTED TO CONTACT NAVY DEPARTMENT TO ASCERTAIN DETAILS OF PROOF CONCERNING DEATH OF WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON.

LEADS PREVIOUSLY SET FORTH FOR SEATTLE AND DETROIT. SUTEL DEVELOPMENTS.....

MORLEY

END

A IN O PLS

WA 0711 12-50 PM OK FBI WA DC SK

PA FLD OK FBI PA PH

DETTE OK FBI DT MT

(Initials)

*W. J. Delacouris*

OK

B-48900 MB

FEBRUARY 4, 1946

SAC, LITTLE ROCK

URGENT FEBRUARY TWO. URGENT, SA, WILLIAM LANGSTON, IMPERSONATION. CONTAINED  
HANDWRITTEN QUESTIONED ENVELOPE AND LETTER NOT WRITTEN BY MURDER OF LANGSTON OR  
WILLIAM LANGSTON. NO CORRELATION BETWEEN FORD QUOTE ONLY ENVELOPE PREPARED BY  
ANY WRITER OF QUESTIONED OR KNOWN WRITINGS. EVIDENCE AND REPORT FOLLOWS.

HOOVER

Deferred

WIS:FEB

19 FEB 5 1946

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 4 1946

TELETYPE

RECEIVED

FBI - LITTLE ROCK

JANUARY 31, 1946

2-03 PM CST

DIRECTOR

....

U R G E N T

SUBJ, VA - WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON, WILLIAM LANGSTON, IMP. REBU-  
TEL YESTERDAY. GEORGE CROWNOVER, NEWPORT, ARKANSAS, ADVISES THAT  
SUBJECT AFTER REPRESENTING HIMSELF AS WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON STA-  
TED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE A DISCHARGE FROM THE MARINE CORPS. CROWN-  
OVER BELIEVING THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY LANGSTON FURNISHED SUBJECT WITH  
LODGING ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY NINETEEN LAST AND ON JANUARY TWENTY,  
CASH EQUIVALENT TWO DOLLARS. SUBJ. UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES ALSO  
REPORTED TO HAVE OBTAINED TWO DOLLARS FROM CECIL TATE OF NEWARK,  
ARKANSAS. SUBJ. STATED THAT HE DID NOT NEED A DISCHARGE FROM THE  
MARINE CORPS. WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON WAS FORMERLY BELIEVED BY  
THE INDIVIDUALS FURNISHING THE MONEY TO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE  
BATTLE OF IWO JIMA MARCH SEVEN, FORTYFIVE, AND WAS KNOWN TO BE A  
MEMBER OF THE U. S. M. C. AFTER SUBJECTS DEPARTURE FROM NEWPORT,  
A LETTER POSTMARKED JANUARY TWENTYTHREE AT CONWAY, ARKANSAS, WAS  
RECEIVED BY NAOMI HENDRICKS, MOTHER OF WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON,  
AT JONESBORO, ARK., WHICH LETTER BORE RETURN ADDRESS "PVT ~~WILLIAM~~  
WILLIAM LANGSTON, U. S. M. S., STATION "UNION". LETTER QUOTED AS  
FOLLOWS - "DEAR MOTHER, AM GOING TO HOSPITAL IN OKLA. SOMEWHERE.  
WILL BE HOME SOON AS I GET MY DISCHARGE. DONT WORRY, I AM O.K."

REPORT  
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON D. C.

February 13, 1946

To

SAC, Little Rock

There follows the report of the FBI Laboratory on the examination of evidence received from your office on February 4, 1946.

*John Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, with aliases  
WILLIAM WILLIAM LANGSTON  
WILLIAM LANGSTON  
INFORMATION

YOUR FILE NO.

FBI FILE NO.

LAB. NO.

EXAMINATION

47-477

47-477

2-45300 11

Examination requested by

Little Rock

Reference

Letter February 2, 1946

Examination requested

Document

Comments

- 1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Mrs. Naomi Hendricks Jonesboro Ark." bearing return address "Pvt. William Langston U.S.A. Station 1111" postmarked at Conway, Arkansas on January 23, 1946 at 8-PM, together with accompanying letter handwritten in ink beginning: "Dear Mother, is going to...." signed "William Langston".
- 2 One sheet of ruled paper bearing hand-drawn sketch of a Minuteman bearing the handwritten word "gray".
- 3 Envelope postmarked at Dallas, Washington on June 18, 1945 at 4-PM, together with accompanying three-page letter handwritten in pencil dated June 15, 1945 beginning: "Hello Dad and....." signed "Marion B. Langston", bearing the known handwriting of MARION BAYLE LANGSTON.
- 4 Three postal cards postmarked July 17, 1943 at San Diego, Calif., July 3, 1943 at L.A. & Alhambra, N.D. 2-PM, and July 8, 1943 at Chicago, Illinois; Envelope postmarked October 20, 1944 at San Diego together with accompanying letter signed "Will"; envelope postmarked July 28, 1943 at San Diego, Calif. together with accompanying letter signed "William"; letter dated Monday 18, 1943 beginning: "Hello mother, how's my son getting..." signed "Pvt. William B. Langston"; containing known handwriting of WILLIAM WILLIAM LANGSTON.

2-LITTLE ROCK - REGISTERED MAIL

Page one (Continued on next page)



RESULT OF EXAMINATION:

This report confirms and supplements the Bureau's teletype dated February 4, 1946 to your office in connection with this case.

It was concluded that the questioned handwriting on the envelope and letter designated above as specimen #1 was not prepared by either Marion Davis Langston, #1, or William Willard Langston, #2.

A definite conclusion could not be reached as to whether the word "gray", specimen #3, was prepared by the writers of specimens #1, #1 and #2 because the writing on specimen #3 is too limited for adequate comparison.

The evidence which you submitted is being returned to your office herewith, photographic copies having been retained of specimens #1 and #2 only.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 2-2-46

FROM : SAC, Little Rock

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, with aliases:  
William Willard Langston,  
William Langston  
IMPERSONATION

ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

A REQUEST IS BEING MADE THAT THIS EXAMINATION BE GIVEN PREFERENCE AND EXPEDITIOUS ATTENTION.

On the week end of January 19 and 20, there appeared in Newport, Arkansas, an individual who purported to be WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON who had been known to have been killed in action in the battle of Iwo Jima, March 7, 1945, while serving as a member of the United States Marine Corps. LANGSTON was formerly of Newark, Arkansas, and while the subject was in Newport representing himself as LANGSTON, he conversed with several individuals who were acquainted with the LANGSTON family and that fact that WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON was supposedly dead. Details of the LANGSTON family life and knowledge of the country near Newark were freely discussed by the subject. No member of the immediate LANGSTON family ever saw the subject while he was in Newport.

After stirring up a great deal of publicity, the subject departed from Newport and has not been seen since that time.

There is being enclosed for handwriting comparisons the following material:

1. A hand-drawn sketch of a Rhinoceros with the word "gray" written on it. This sketch is known to have been drawn by the subject and the word "gray" was written.
2. An envelope bearing return address of "Pvt. WILLIAM LANGSTON, U. S. M. S. Station ~~unseen~~" This letter was received by LANGSTON's mother after the subject's ~~appearance in Newport~~.
3. A letter ~~contained in the envelope~~ bearing the heading of "Conroy, Ark." and signed "William Langston."

9 FEB 6 1946

COPY AND SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB

FOR LAB ACTION AND REPORT

48300

47-35324-2

There is being transmitted the following known handwriting specimens of the true WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON.

4. A letter written at San Diego, California, dated "Monday, 18, 1943." Only the pencil written portion of this letter is a handwriting specimen of WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON.
5. A letter dated July 27, 1943, at San Diego, Calif.
6. An envelope in which the letter was mailed postmarked July 23, 1943, at San Diego, Calif.
7. Two postal cards addressed to Mrs. LINDA LANGSTON, 1020 Market St., St. Joseph, Michigan. It is not definitely known whether the handwriting in which the address is written is in the handwriting of WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON, because his widow stated that she addressed several cards to herself and to LANGSTON's parents and gave these cards to LANGSTON.
8. A postal card addressed to Mr. and Mrs. W. C. LANGSTON, Newark, Arkansas.
9. An envelope postmarked October 20, 1944, at San Diego, California, addressed to Mr. and Mrs. W. C. LANGSTON. Return address torn away.
10. A letter contained in the envelope which is item 9, signed "your son Bill".

There is also being enclosed the following handwriting specimens of MARION DAVIS LANGSTON, FBI #4521998, who is the logical suspect in this case by reason of physical injuries corresponding somewhat to that which the subject stated he had and his familiarity with the family life of the LANGSTON family.

11. An envelope postmarked June 18, 1945, at Shelton, Washington.
12. The letter contained therein dated June 15, 1945, signed MARION D. LANGSTON. This letter consists of three pages written in pencil.

It is requested that handwriting comparisons be made in order to determine whether the writer of specimens 1 and 2 is the same writer

LR 47-839

of any of the other specimens submitted.

It is also requested that specimens one and two be compared with each other to determine whether they were written by the same writer.

After the examination is completed, it is requested that all specimens be returned to the Little Rock Field Division for appropriate disposition.

It is not believed that it is worthwhile to examine the specimens submitted for latent fingerprints because of the fact that they were all handled a great deal by a great many persons before they came into possession of this office.

A REPLY BY TELETYPE AS TO THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION WILL BE APPRECIATED.

WLC/rp

47-839

AIR MAIL AND SPECIAL DELIVERY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC: Mr. Rosen  
Mr. McCabe  
Mr. Fleming

RE: MURDER

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

January 30, 1946

Transmit the following message to: SAC, ~~LITTLE ROCK~~

URGENT

*Re 1/29/46 file*  
UNKNOWN SUBJECT, WA., WILLIAM WILLARD LANGSTON, IMPERSONATION. FACTS AS  
RELAYED IN YOUR TELETYPE OF INSTANT DATE DO NOT INDICATE SUBJECT HAS  
VIOLATED THE IMPERSONATION STATUTE. SOME ADDITIONAL FACTS JUSTIFYING  
INVESTIGATION OUTLINE IN ~~YOUR OFFICE~~.

HOOPER.

JAN 30 1946